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Physical Education in Denmark



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PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN DENMARK

The first school in Denmark to introduce formal instruction in bodily exercises was the private one of Court Chaplain Christiani in Vesterbro, Copenhagen, opened in May, 1795, in accordance with philanthropinistic ideals and with active games in the program from the start. In the spring of 1799, at Christiani's invitation, Franz Nachteggall* became the teacher of gymnastics and made it methodical, following the GutsMuths manual of 1793 as a guide,† and using an open space provided with apparatus. In the fall of 1799 he also introduced gymnastics in the rival school of Schouboe, and on November 5, in the yard of No. 45 Østergade, using also the yard of the Schouboe school on Saturday afternoons, opened a private school of gymnastics, intended especially for children—the first institution in modern Europe which had physical education as

*Vivat Victoriuss Fredericuss Nachteggall—Franz Nachteggall, he called himself—the son of a tailor, Conrad Nachteggall, and Cathrine (Castler) Nachteggall, was born in Copenhagen October 3, 1777, and died May 12, 1847. He received his preliminary training in the Schouboe private school, and in 1794 began the study of theology at the university. The death of his father prevented him from taking the final examination for his degree and threw upon him the support of an invalid mother. He had taken lessons in fencing and vaulting from the old French fencing master Embs, and soon acquired skill in both arts, but especially the latter. The reading of GutsMuths's "Gymnastik für die Jugend" (Schnepfenthal, 1793) led him to begin teaching gymnastics, first to some students in his own home, and then, early in 1798, to a gymnastic club of university students and tradesmen which he organized and directed.

†An abridged translation of this book, by V. K. Hjort, curate at Holmens Kirke, was published in Copenhagen in 1799 ("Kort Anviisning til Legemøvelser. Et Udtog af GutsMuths Gymnastik. Udgivet paa Dansk af V. K. Hjort. Kiøbenhavn 1799. Paa Hofboghandler S. Poulsens Forlag.") The preface is dated July 11.)

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its sole object.* As his work developed Nachteggall turned over the actual teaching at the Christiani and Schouboe schools to former pupils of his, retaining only the general oversight. In 1801 a public elementary (charity) school, Frue Arbejdskole, introduced gymnastics, Nachteggall himself and later a pupil of his doing the teaching, and girls as well as boys taking part in the exercises. In 1802 the practice was taken up at a second charity school (Opfostringshuset), and in 1803 at two others of the same sort (Nikolaj and Bredgades Fattigskoler) and in Efterslægtens Skole. By 1805 instruction in gymnastics was being given in nine of the Copenhagen schools.

During the years 1802-1804 Nachteggall and Cand. theol. (later Bishop) P. H. Mønster, who had completed a course in gymnastics with Nachteggall, gave courses of lectures on the method and history of gymnastics. Among their auditors were university students, military men, and all the pupils at Blaagaard Seminarium (Teachers' College). February 3, 1804, King Christian VII. appointed Nachteggall professor of gymnastics in the university, though he never made use of any of the university lecture rooms. He now offered to give without charge lectures on the theory and method of gymnastics at Blaagaard Seminarium. The offer was accepted, and though attendance was voluntary most of the Seminarium pupils took advantage of the opportunity and the older ones took part in practical exercises in the school yard, which had been provided with apparatus. It was used also by children in the model or practice school. In 1805 Nachteggall prepared a manual of gymnastics for army and navy use† which became a guide for civil teachers also, and the Crown Prince had copies distributed to public and

*He had five pupils at the start, 25 by the end of the year, and in the winter of 1803-1804 there were 150 pupils, and six teachers whom he had himself trained. 1801-1807 the school was located at Ambassadøren Gaard in Aabenraa, and in 1804 Nachteggall turned it over to one of his pupils, Stud. theol. (later Captain) Johan Christian Thomsen. It was visited on August 29 of that year by Dr. Karl August Zeller of Dresden, a teacher who had seen the work of GutsMuths at Schnepfenthal and whose account of what he saw in Copenhagen is printed in *Monatsschrift für das Turnwesen* vii: 353-359 (1888, December).

†"Instruction i Gymnastikken, for de Lærere som ere ansatte ved Kavalleriets og Infanteriets Underofficeer- og Exerceerskoler. Efter hans Kongelige Højhed Kronprindsens Befaling forfattet af F. Nachteggall, Professor i Gymnastik." Copenhagen, 1805. 94 pages.

private schools. The next year Nachteggall began to send out teachers of gymnastics. Stud. theol. Johan Christian Thomsen and Cand. theol. Carl Christoffer Gøtzsche had received instruction under him, and May 30 and 31 and June 2, 1806, submitted to a public examination in theory, practice, and actual conduct of a class, before a board of six members provided by a decree of Crown Prince Frederick. Thomsen, who was teacher at the Schouboe school and the naval academy (Søkadetakademiet), gave up theology and took over Nachteggall's private school of gymnastics. Later in the same year (1806) two *Seminarister*, N. Petersen and Christensen, also took an examination of the same sort, under Nachteggall in the presence of public officials (*Censorer*), with a view to giving instruction in gymnastics in elementary schools. Meanwhile Nachteggall continued his teaching at Blaagaard Seminarium, and at the request of the school authorities had worked out a plan for obligatory instruction in the theory and practice of gymnastics there, followed by an examination at the end of the course. He was also to prepare a manual which should serve as a basis of instruction, and later as a handbook for use in the schools where graduates were employed. But when the plan was ready, in 1808, war* and stringent times made a postponement necessary, though the voluntary lessons went on as before.

The same year, 1808, saw other provision made for the training of teachers, however, thanks to the interest of Crown Prince Frederick in Nachteggall's work—an interest roused by his first unexpected visit to the private school of gymnastics in 1800 and interrupted only by his death, December 3, 1839. It was with his assistance that the yard in Aabenraa had been purchased in 1801,† and he attended the first four annual exhibitions there.

*The British landed an army about ten miles north of Copenhagen August 16, 1807, and captured that city and the Danish fleet in September. Denmark now became an ally of Napoleon, and by the Treaty of Kiel, January 14, 1814, was punished by the loss of Norway to Sweden.

†The equipment at Aabenraa was destroyed during the British bombardment of September 2-5, 1807. Nachteggall now tried repeatedly, but in vain, to secure a suitable site fronting the harbor between Lange- and Knippelsbro, but was obliged to be content (1809) with a smaller and less desirable spot at the corner of Østergade and Kristenbernikovstræde. The next year, with the King's approval, he was able to purchase property at No. 108 paa Østerbro, which had been used by a calico-

He saw at once the value of gymnastics for the soldier, and from this time forth a part of Nachteggall's time and energy was diverted from the schools to the service of the military and naval forces of the state. In 1801 and the years immediately following Nachteggall became successively teacher of gymnastics at the naval academy (Søkadet-Akademi), the military academy (Landkadet-Akademi), and the Kgl. Artillerikadet-Institut, reaching thus the men who were to become Danish and Norwegian officers on land and sea. He also taught (1804-1808) in the Copenhagen schools for non-commissioned officers. August 25, 1804, a training school for teachers of gymnastics in the army (*det militære gymnastiske Institut**) was organized, with Nachteggall printing establishment, and here in 1814 Thomsen was succeeded, as head of the private school, by Captain Hansen. In 1826 the school was located in State Councillor Rosenkilde's yard on Kongens Nytorv.

*At first two hours a day were allotted to instruction of non-commissioned army officers and the number of pupils was between 60 and 70. In 1809 he was asked to train teachers for the navy also. The courses, embracing both theory and practice, extended over three years, and closed with an examination. In obedience to the wish of the Crown Prince, Nachteggall undertook the preparation of a manual of gymnastics for use in the army—the one of 1805, already referred to, followed by others in 1819, 1821, and 1837. [In 1819: "Reglement for Rekrutternes gymnastiske Dannelse i den Danske Armees Exerceerskoler saavel som for de Dele af Gymnastikken, hvori det tjenstgjørende Mandskab i Fremtiden skal øves" (Copenhagen, 139 pages); in 1821: "Reglement for den gymnastiske Underviisning ved Regimenternes og Corpsernes Underviisnings-Anstalter for Underofficerer og Spillemand, samt ved Land-Etatens militaire Caserne- eller Drengeskoler" (Copenhagen, 78 pages); in 1837: "Reglement for Underviisning i Gymnastik og de dermed forenede Vaabenøvelser i den danske Armee" (Copenhagen, 223 pages). The manual of 1805 is the only one of the series which bears Nachteggall's name on the title-page.] In 1806-1807, with the assistance of a grant from the royal treasury, he visited bathing establishments in Germany and Russia, and studied the instruction given in fencing, vaulting, and swimming in France, and in Italy the methods of the Bernardi system of swimming. The length of the course was reduced from three to two years in 1815, and the next year there were only twelve pupils. Nachteggall now gave up the actual teaching to Captain Hansen, although he retained the general supervision and was given the title of *Overinspektør* (Inspector-General), with the duty of overseeing the instruction in gymnastics given in the army and at the military schools (he no longer taught at the military academies). The school was removed at the same time (1816) to Kronprinsessegadens barrack. Two years later short courses, of only three or four months' duration, were added to meet the need of

as its first director (1804-1842). Until 1828 it had no quarters of its own, and for the first twelve years was accommodated at his private school.

The step in question was taken when a royal edict of August 1, 1808, founded a training school for civilian teachers of gymnastics (det civile gymnastiske Lærerinstitut), intended especially to meet the needs of the elementary or common schools (Almueskoler). For a yearly payment of 300 rix-dollars Nachtegall was to give free instruction to persons in civil life who showed special liking and aptitude for gymnastics, and in particular to pupils sent from out-of-town teachers' colleges (Seminarier), in order that these in turn might teach the new subject in the schools. Pupils from other educational institutions, also, might be sent to him, but the total number was not to exceed 60 to 70. Nachtegall was to provide the apparatus, and he was at the same time freed from supervision of the schools for non-commissioned officers in Copenhagen. In a circular of September 3, 1808, all the *Seminarier* were officially notified of the arrangement. The new institution was therefore to be to the schools and the people what the military gymnastic institute was for the army; but it was not an independent school, it merely meant that civilians were to be admitted to courses in the military institute, and both training schools utilized the grounds and equipment, and in part the teaching force, of Nachtegall's private school. Not many persons outside the teaching profession made use of the opportunity thus offered, but a succession of pupils came up from the *Seminarier* to the Institute, where they were lodged

non-commissioned officers capable of conducting the gymnastic exercises of their companies. After twelve years of wandering about, in barracks, at *Gjethuset*, and finally back again in the quarters of the private school, now on Kongens Nytorv, the "Military Institute" was able to occupy its own building at Sølvgadens barrack early in 1828, where it has remained ever since. The next year, at the completion of its first quarter-century, the title "royal" was added to its name ("det kongelige militære gymnastiske Institut"). The present name, *Hærens Gymnastikskole*, dates from 1867. The list of Directors is as follows:

1. Franz Nachtegall (1777-1847) 1804-1842.
2. Col. Niels Georg la Cour (1797-1876) 1842-1867.
3. Lieut. Col. Julius Amsinck (1833-1902) 1867-1885.
4. Capt. Ludvig Viktor Schleppegrell (1846-1892) 1885-1892.
5. Capt. Harald Axel Hilarius-Kalkau (1852-) 1892-1902.
6. Capt. Hans Henrik Bondo (1860-) 1902-1912.
7. Capt. Kai Justus Sigismund Ulrich (1866-) 1912- .

and given not only free instruction but in addition the sum of sixteen rix-dollars a month for food and clothing. The usual length of the course was 15 to 18 months, though the first pupil was graduated in August of 1809. By 1814 the civilian training school, caught in the stress of hard times, had ceased to exist. Meanwhile a total of only 31 students had completed its course, but 10 of these went out to occupy positions at *Seminarier*, and so became in turn the instructors of other teachers-to-be.

The disastrous results of collisions between Denmark and Great Britain during the Napoleonic wars (1801-1814) and the economic distress which followed the loss of Norway (1814) made the period 1809-1825 an unfavorable one for educational reforms, and yet the efforts of the Danish government to introduce gymnastics into the curriculum of the schools did not stop altogether with provision for the training of teachers. An ordinance of November 7, 1809, stated in general that grammar or secondary schools ("de lærde Skoler") should furnish instruction in gymnastics "when and where it was possible" to do so. In the school code of 1814 gymnastics was made an integral part of the course for boys in all elementary schools (Folkeskoler)—nearly three decades before any other European country took such action (Prussia in 1842). Wherever the teacher possessed the requisite ability he was to give his pupils a daily lesson in gymnastics, outside of school hours proper, and for this purpose every school must have the necessary apparatus and an outdoor space of 800-1200 *Alen* (3200-4800 square feet). At the *Seminarier* gymnastics became a required subject under the regulations of 1818, and in 1821 Nachtgall was appointed *Gymnastikdirektør* (Director of Gymnastics), with oversight of both civil and military gymnastics throughout the state. But with here and there a notable exception, the result of so much favorable legislation left much to be desired. Teachers were most of them without training, hard times interfered with the purchase of grounds and apparatus, and appreciation of the importance of school gymnastics as a pedagogical measure was by no means general.

Beginning with the middle twenties and lasting till the death of King Frederick VI. (December 3, 1839) there was some improvement. In Copenhagen itself gymnastics was now intro-

duced in many public and private schools, and some of the village schools in Copenhagen county took similar action, assisted by the government (1826), which desired to see all the schools in a single county reached before further state-wide measures were attempted. Within a few years this had been accomplished. November 25, 1826, a circular was sent out to the school authorities all over Denmark urging them to do what they could to favor instruction in gymnastics. In the summer of the next year a considerable number of teachers from Copenhagen county came to the city for a course in gymnastics. They felt the need of some opportunity for practice with children along with the instruction they themselves received. At Nachtegal's suggestion the King therefore ordered (August 21, 1827) that 40 to 50 children from one of the public schools should be received at *det militære gymnastiske Institut* for instruction in gymnastics, and that this public school should establish such relations with the Institute that both together would constitute a teachers' college which might serve as a *normal school of gymnastics* (Normalskole for Gymnastikken), where not only the military and civil pupils at the Institute but also teachers in public and private schools could have an opportunity to conduct classes under supervision. The Normal School, under this new arrangement, was opened on January 28, 1828 (at the same time the new building of the Institute, at Sølvgaden barrack, was ready for use), and during that year more than 200 teachers were in attendance (in 1829 the number was 98, and in the years 1831-1836 the attendance was 86, 55, 39, 22, 24, and 27, respectively), 160 boys from the Garrison school coming to the Institute to serve as a model school. In summer their place was taken by pupils from charity schools.

June 25, 1828, the King approved the *manual of gymnastics** ✓

*"Lærebog i Gymnastik for Almue- og Borger-Skolerne i Danmark. Kjøbenhavn 1828. Trykt hos Andreas Seidelin, Hof- og Universitets-Bogtrykker." 124 pages and 4 folding plates containing 47 figures. A German translation was published: "Lehrbuch der Gymnastik für Volks- und Bürger-schulen. Aus den Dänischen übersetzt von C. Kopp, Gymnastiklehrer am Königl. Schullehrer-Seminar in Tondern, Dannebrogsmann. Mit vier Steindrücken. Tondern 1831. Gedruckt in der Königl. privilegirten Buchdruckerey der Wittve Forchhammer." viii+104 pages and 4 folding plates. Tondern was then a Danish town, but the German language was used in the *Seminarium*. State aid was given toward the publication of the book.

for use in the middle and common schools (Folkeskolerne) on which Nachteggall and four other members of a commission appointed for the purpose had been at work for a year. This was the first book of the sort to be authorized by any European government. Copies were sent (4000 of them) at the King's expense to all Danish schools and school authorities. On the same day, June 25, was issued an order which required the immediate introduction of instruction in gymnastics in all schools throughout the state. A city inspector of gymnastics was appointed in Copenhagen, where every child received three lessons a week and the teachers were most of them non-commissioned officers. It was estimated that by the end of 1830 two thousand elementary schools (Almueskoler) were already complying with the order, and that by the time of the King's death 2500 out of the (approximately) 2600 public schools in Denmark were making at least some provision for systematic bodily exercise.

The secondary schools were at first slow to take adequate measures, but a special order of September 20, 1831, directed that this be done just as soon as circumstances permitted.* An administrative order of February 14, 1832, made the introduction of instruction in gymnastics a necessary condition of permission to open any private school for boys. September 14, 1833, Nachteggall's manual and regulations for secondary schools† received the King's approval, and it was published the

*In that year was issued, at public expense, Nachteggall's report of the progress which had been made in Denmark between 1799 and 1830: "Gymnastikkens Fremgang i Danmark, fra dens første Indførelse i Aaret 1799 indtil Utgangen af Aaret 1830. Udtogsviis efter de Rapporter, som aarligen allerunderdanigst ere forelagte Hans Majestæt Kongen. Ved F. Nachteggall, Directeur for Gymnastikken, Professor, Overinspecteur ved det Kongelige militære gymnastiske Institut, ved Normalskolen for Gymnastikken, m.m., Ridder af Dannebrog og Dannebrogsmænd. Kjøbenhavn, Trykt i Thieles Bogtrykkeri. 1831." viii+152+xxiii pages.

†"Lærebog i Gymnastik til Brug for de lærde Skoler i Danmark. Ved F. Nachteggall, Directeur for og Professor i Gymnastikken; Ridder af Dbr. og Dbm. Kjøbenhavn. Trykt i det Poppeske Bogtrykkeri. 1834." 147 pages. Bound with the above: "Regulativ for den gymnastiske Underviisning ved de lærde Skoler i Danmark." ii+24 pages and 2 folding plates containing 24 figures of apparatus. Of this book also a German translation appeared: "Lehrbuch der Gymnastik zum Gebrauch für die gelehrte Schulen in Dänemark. Von F. Nachteggall, Directeur und Professor der Gymnastik, Ritter von Dannebrog und Dannebrogsmænd."

following year. In 1836 he was sent on a tour of inspection among the *Seminarier*, to see what was being done in them and to give any needful counsel and suggestions. He found the interest in gymnastics general, but lack of sufficient apparatus in some places and in others faulty methods, and therefore arranged to have the teachers of gymnastics at three of the *Seminarier* take a summer course at the Normal School in 1837. In obedience to an order of March 7, 1838, he made a second tour, primarily to inspect the Latin schools, but took advantage of the opportunity to visit the *Seminarier* again.

Hitherto it had been boys and young men alone who were reached by gymnastics in the schools, but an order of March 28, 1838, given in response to Nachteggall's proposal, established an experimental school for girls. Thirty pupils, ranging in age from six to fifteen years, were selected from among the girls at the Garrison school, and beginning in the spring of the same year these received three lessons a week from five teachers (three sergeants and two women) at the Military Gymnastic Institute, under the general direction of Nachteggall and a physician. The success of this experiment suggested a normal school of gymnastics for women (Normalskole for Kvindegymnastik). An order of February 20, 1839, approved the plan, and prescribed that women teachers, and others who wished it, should receive an opportunity at the Institute to become acquainted with methods of teaching, and that the exercises practiced there and the mode of progression adopted should serve as a model for the schools for girls which introduced gymnastics. These latter were also put under Nachteggall's supervision. The number of pupils at the Normal School now increased. In the summer of 1839 lessons in the new subject were begun with girls in the royal navy schools (Søetatens Skoler), and many other Copenhagen schools took a similar step.

After the death of Frederick VI., December 3, 1839, Nachteggall's own efforts (he was now sixty-two years old) began to slacken. In 1840 and 1843 he made new tours of inspection

mann. Aus den Dänischen übersetzt von C. Kopp, Gymnastiklehrer am Königl. Schullehrer-Seminar in Tondern, Dannebrogsmann. Tondern 1837. Gedruckt in der Königl. privilegirten Buchdruckerei der Wittwe Forchhammer." viii+144 pages. Bound with the above: "Regulativ für den gymnastischen Unterricht bei den gelehrten Schulen in Dänemark." 22 pages.

among the *Seminarier*. In 1842 he turned over to la Cour the headship of *det kongelige militære gymnastiske Institut*, but continued to discharge the duties of *Gymnastikdirektør* till his death, which occurred May 12, 1847. He is buried at No. F986 in Assistents Kirkegaard, Nørrebrogade, Copenhagen.*

Niels Georg la Cour,† who succeeded Nachtegall as Director of Gymnastics in Denmark (1847-1870), met with little success in his endeavor to improve conditions. As head of the

*Sources for Nachtegall and his time:

1. Joakim Larsen, "Gymnastikundervisningen i Danmark paa Nachtegalls Tid (Foredrag ved Gymnastiklærer mødet i Stockholm 1895; her meddelt i en noget udvidet Skikkelse)." In *Vor Ungdom* (periodical, Copenhagen), 1895, pp. 465-512.

2. Joakim Larsen, article "Nachtegall" in C. F. Bricka's "Dansk Biografisk Lexikon," volume XII (Copenhagen, 1898).

3. Joakim Larsen, "Gymnastikundervisningens Indførelse i vore Folkeskoler for 100 Aar siden." In *Gymnastisk Selskabs Aarsskrift 1913-1914* (Copenhagen, 1914), pp. 5-28.

4. K. A. Knudsen, article "Gymnastik" in "Salmonsens store illustrerede Konversationsleksikon," volume VIII (Copenhagen, 1898).

5. K. A. Knudsen, "Gymnastikken i Danmark i hundrede Aar 1814-1914." Foredrag ved de baltiske Lege i Malmö 1914. Copenhagen, 1914.

6. Jens Bergmann, "Hærens Gymnastikskole og Skolegymnastikken." In *Gymnastisk Selskabs Aarsskrift 1904*.

7. Illeris og Trap, "Grundtræk af Gymnastikkens Historie" (Copenhagen, 1909), pp. 72-79.

†He was born December 11, 1797, at Viborg, in Jutland, son of Captain Niels and Georgia Nicoline (Mørch) la Cour. Entered the military academy as cadet in 1810, in 1813 was made second lieutenant in the Schleswig infantry regiment, 1816-1818 served with the Danish contingent in France, and in 1824 became first lieutenant. In 1829 appointed inspecting officer (Inspektionsofficer) and teacher at *det kongelige militære gymnastiske Institut*, and in 1833 teacher with *Landkadetkorpset* also. In 1834 promoted to the rank of captain and with the help of a grant from the King undertook a journey to Germany and France, to make himself familiar with the instruction in gymnastics given in those countries. In 1842-1867 was director of *det kongelige militære gymnastiske Institut*, and 1847-1870 director of gymnastics (*Gymnastikdirektør*) in Denmark. In 1855 was made colonel. Died December 21, 1876. Sources: Article "la Cour, Niels Georg," in C. F. Bricka's "Dansk Biografisk Lexikon," volume IV (Copenhagen, 1890), and also the following: Knudsen 1898 and 1914, Bergmann 1904, and Illeris og Trap 1909 (pp. 149-151) as above, under Nachtegall; and "Dansk Idræts Litteratur gennem tre Aarhundreder (1606-1914): En Bibliografisk Oversigt Udgiven af Dansk Idræts-Forbund ved J. Weinberg" (Copenhagen, 1916. Part of Dansk Idræts-Forbunds "Aarsberetning 1915").

Military Institute he published a new manual for the army,* upon which was based his later manual for the elementary schools.† But interest was now at low ebb. Beginning in 1859 it came to be the practice to supply the need of teachers of gymnastics in the *Seminarier* by "loaning" them non-commissioned officers for a term of three years. (This continued to be the rule till 1901!) In the schools of Copenhagen, also, and in garrison towns, such instruction was in the hands of military men. But in the army the broad educational aims of gymnastics had been subordinated to mere attainment of skill, so that the soldier too often regarded it with dread as a means of discipline and punishment. These officers, too, held themselves aloof from the general school life and from the other teachers. When la Cour, who possessed more energy than tact and lacked Nachtegall's conciliatory manner, called attention to neglect or defective equipment revealed by his tours of inspection, and when official circulars directed the school authorities to exercise a keener and more vigorous oversight, the result in many cases was to arouse a feeling of irritation and indignation. In 1859-1860‡ it was proposed and voted in the lower house of the *Rigsdag* (national parliament) that boards of education be allowed to discontinue instruction in gymnastics for a time when the local school authorities deemed the step desirable. The upper house, however, refused to concur.

Upon la Cour's retirement from the position of *Gymnastikdirektør* in 1870 this office was abolished, and a new one was created—that of inspector of gymnastics (*Gymnastikinspektør*) for civil schools only. But there was no actual separation from military control, for until 1904 it was the army which supplied candidates for the place. The first man to fill it (1870-1886) was Col. Johann Theodor Wegener (1810-1886). He chose for his assistant Captain (later Lieut. Col.) Julius Amsinck (1833-1902), director of *Hærens Gymnastikskole* 1867-1885, who later

*"Reglement for Undervisningen i Gymnastik i den danske Armé." Copenhagen, 1852. 240 pages, illustrated.

†"Lærebog i Gymnastik for Borger- og Almueskoler." Copenhagen, 1856 (1855?). 112 pages, illustrated. Second edition 1860. There was also a "Tillæg til Lærebog i Gymnastik for Borger- og Almueskolerne." Copenhagen, 1869. 38 pages.

‡1858, according to Knudsen 1914, p. 12.

became his successor (1886-1899).* Amsinck published in 1883 a manual for school use,† based on that of la Cour.

Nearly thirty years after Nachtegall's attempt (1838 and 1839) to introduce gymnastics into schools for girls and to train women teachers in the subject, attention was again directed to the importance of such efforts by Professor A. G. Drachmann, Dr. med., who with another physician, Professor Schiødte, had opened an institute for medical gymnastics and orthopedics in Copenhagen. He believed that the exercises of girls should be quite different from those used with boys, and followed Napoléon Laisné as a guide,‡ making much of æsthetic movements and using wooden rings (Træringe) and wands with movable balls on them (Stave med bevægelige Kugler). He also trained teachers, and secured positions for them in some of the private schools in the city. His daughter Erna taught in Frk. Natalie Zahle's

*Amsinck was born June 30, 1833, at Horsens in Jutland, son of Captain (of horse), later Lieutenant Col. H. Amsinck, descended from a Dutch family. At the age of thirteen he became cadet (for five years) at the military academy (Landkadetakademi), in 1851 second lieutenant of infantry, and after training in the horse guards (Gardekavalleri) entered *det kongelige militære gymnastiske Institut* in 1854 and completed the course with distinction two years later, remaining there as teacher and *Inspektionsofficer* (he received a permanent appointment in 1866). He took part in the war with Germany in 1864 as first lieutenant of infantry. In 1867 was made chef of *Hærens Gymnastikskole* (the new name for the Institut), and in 1870 captain and chef, retiring when he reached the age limit (52) in 1885. Published "Gymnastikreglement," Nyborg 1869 and 1880 (1882?). Was also teacher of gymnastics, fencing, and swimming at the naval academy (Søkadet-Akademi) 1858-1869, and 1868-1886 at the *Officerskole* of the army and assistant to the *Gymnastikinspektør*. In 1878 visited Sweden and saw gymnastics taught in the schools, *Seminarier*, and Stockholm *Centralinstitut*, and was present at the second general Swedish *Turnfest*, in Gothenburg May 3. He was commissioned lieutenant colonel in 1886 and the same year appointed *Gymnastikinspektør* in the ministry of church and school affairs. He entered upon his duties as latter January 1, 1887. A sketch of his life, based on material furnished by Joakim Larsen, is given by Carl Euler in the "Encyklopædisches Handbuch des gesamten Turnwesens," vol. I, pp. 15 and 16.

†"Lærebog i Gymnastik for Skoler og civile Lærestalter i Danmark." Copenhagen, 1883. 252 pages, illustrated. Second edition, Copenhagen, 1890.

‡Laisné's "Gymnastique des demoiselles a l'usage des écoles normales, des lycées et collèges de jeunes filles, des pensions et des écoles" was published in Paris in 1851.

school.* He wrote "Om vore Pigebørns fysiske Opdragelse" (Copenhagen, 1867. 40 pages, illustrated), and "Gymnastik for den kvindelige Ungdom" (Copenhagen, 1869. 121 pages, illustrated).

A similar work, but much more extensive and successful, was that of *Krigsassessor* (military judge) Paul Petersen† in the years between 1870 and his death in 1906. He began his teaching of gymnastics in a small private school for girls in Copenhagen in September of 1870. With no particular physiological or pedagogical foundation and no principles underlying the choice and arrangement of exercises except their external form he made use of the old *Nachtegall* gymnastics, but combined with this exercises selected from German, French, and especially Swedish sources, and christened the result "Den danske Kvindegymnastik." He sought to develop agility and strength by exercises on apparatus, but also emphasized the æsthetic, employed music in exercises like the German *Reigen*, and made much of dancing. By 1897 a total of 167 women had completed his two-years teachers' course, and its length was later increased to two and a half years. The Copenhagen *Kommuneskoler* (board- or communal schools) began to introduce the system in 1886. After his death his daughter continued the work of the Petersen *Institut for Kvindegymnastik*.‡

*In 1884, then Fru Erna Juel-Hansen, she opened in Copenhagen an "Institut for Kvindegymnastik," which became a rival of Paul Petersen's and employed the Ling system.

†For Drachmann and Petersen consult: Knudsen 1898 and Illeris og Trap 1909 (pp. 152, 155 and 156), as above, under *Nachtegall*, and also K. A. Lange's "Den Lingske Gymnastik i Danmark 1884-1909" (Copenhagen, 1909), pp. 10 and 98-101; and Petersen in "Beretning om det skandinaviske Gymnastiklærerselskabs femte almindelige Møde i København den 12.-14. August 1899" (Copenhagen, 1902), pp. 84-90.

‡According to Weinberg 1916 (as above, under *la Cour*), Petersen wrote:

1. "200 Øvelser i Trapez for begge Kjøen" (Copenhagen, 1882. 37 pages).
2. "Danse-Album" (Copenhagen, 1884. 62 pages).
3. "Daglig Hjemmegymnastik for Kvinder og Mænd" (Copenhagen, 1891. 30 pages, illustrated).
4. "Gymnastik-System I-II" (Copenhagen, 1893-1895. 396 pages).
5. "Den danske Kvindegymnastik" (Copenhagen, 1901. 591 pages, illustrated).

August 13, 1899, he spoke on "Kvindegymnastik" at the Scandinavian

After the war of 1864 with Prussia and Austria, in which the Danes lost Schleswig-Holstein and Lauenburg, there was a period of great depression, soon followed, however, by a variety of measures looking toward national regeneration. In two institutions which date from this time, the rifle clubs (*Skytteforeninger*) and the people's or folk high schools (*Folkehøjskolerne*), gymnastics was among the means employed, as it had been in Germany by Jahn and his followers a half-century before. For some years before the outbreak of the war the attitude of Germany in the Schleswig-Holstein dispute had been growing more and more threatening, and in January, 1861, an artillery captain, Valdemar Mønster, proposed in the columns of the Danish paper *Fædrelandet* the organization of voluntary clubs on the plan of the English National Rifle Association,* in order that young men subject to military service might have opportunity to become familiar with the use of weapons and fit themselves to defend the country's rights by force of arms. The suggestion met with general approval, and a few months later a Central Committee, with Captain Mønster as its secretary, was formed to guide and assist the rifle clubs which were being started all over Denmark.† By the close of 1863 there were over a hundred of them in existence.

At first the *Skytteforeninger* confined their attention to rifle shooting and military drill, but after the war had given great

Gymnastiklærerselskabs fifth general convention, in Copenhagen (see "Beretning . . . 1902," pp. 84-90).

After his death were published:

6. "Den danske Kvindegymnastik. 1000 frie Øvelser i 100 Serier" (Copenhagen, 1907. 104 pages).

7. "Den danske Kvindegymnastik" (Copenhagen, 1910. 536 pages, illustrated).

*This was formed in 1860, "for the encouragement of rifle corps and the promotion of rifle shooting throughout Great Britain," and "to make the rifle what the bow was in the days of the Plantagenets, the familiar weapon of those who stand forth in the defence of their country." (Encyclopædia Britannica, 11th edition, xxiii: 334.)

†For the history of the Rifle Clubs consult Lieut. Col. Peter Ramsing's "Gymnastiken i de danske Skytteforeninger," published in the "Beretning om det skandinaviske Gymnastiklærerselskabs femte almindelige Møde i København den 12.-14. August 1899" (Copenhagen, 1902), pp. 48-73; and Kristen A. Lange's "Den Lingske Gymnastik i Danmark 1884-1909" (Copenhagen, 1909), pp. 60-87.

headway to the whole movement gymnastics began to be introduced as a related activity, and gradually won for itself a more and more prominent place. A firmer organization had now been effected, for the smaller clubs, whose number had increased to several hundred, united into county rifle clubs (*Amts-Skytteforeninger*. Denmark is divided for administrative purposes into eighteen counties or *Amter*), and in 1871 the original Central Committee was succeeded by a Board of Directors (*Overbestyrelse*) chosen by representatives of the various units. According to information gathered by the new *Overbestyrelse*, eleven clubs practiced gymnastics in 1872, and nine of these had 2100 members actively engaged, of whom 763 belonged in Svendborg county alone, where the efficient leadership and persevering efforts of Captain Edvard Nielsen had contributed largely toward such a favorable showing and had made that club a model for others.

The exercises were necessarily limited at the start to what could be done in the open air and with little or no apparatus, or use was made of barns or rooms for public gatherings. In 1871, at Ryslinge (island of Fünen), the first special *Øvelseshus* (house for exercise, gymnasium) was erected. Other places were quick to follow the example, so that by 1897 there were nearly 300 such buildings, provided by the club members themselves, and in them 10,000 young countrymen were practicing gymnastics. Trained instructors could be borrowed from the army in garrison towns and the regions adjacent to them, or school teachers were employed or men who had returned from military service. Many clubs, in order to secure better qualified squad leaders, organized brief teachers' courses (*Instruktionsmøder*) in charge of army instructors. When various people's high schools, notably those at Askov and Vallekilde, opened their doors for such leaders' courses (*Delingsførerkursus*) in gymnastics they became an important source of supply. The first course of this kind at Vallekilde was given in 1878. A handbook of gymnastics ("Vejledning i Gymnastik") prepared for the rifle clubs by *Hærens Gymnastikskole* in 1882, at the instance of the *Overbestyrelse*, does not appear to have been widely used, but Captain Amsinck's manual of 1883 was made the basis of instruction.

At the general *Skyttefest* (gathering of rifle clubs for competi-

tive shooting) in 1869 at Horsens the Svendborg county club, the university club from Copenhagen, and others gave exhibitions of gymnastics which must have contributed toward its spread, and this was still more true of the general *Gymnastikfest* at Svendborg in 1878 and the general *Skytte- og Gymnastikfest* at Nyborg in 1881, both of them arranged by the Svendborg county rifle club. At the former there were nearly 1100 participants, who came from 16 towns and 110 country parishes. Six hundred were from Svendborg county alone. County and lesser *Skyttefester* exerted a similar influence. Advantage was taken of the interest thus aroused to seek state aid for the purchase of apparatus. Captain Edvard Nielsen proposed such a measure at the meeting of delegates in 1879, and a motion requesting the *Overbestyrelse* to take suitable steps led to an initial annual grant of 2000 Kr. from the government, increased to 5000 Kr. in 1882 and to 6000 Kr. the following year. Attempts to obtain similar grants to assist in the erection of *Øvelshuse* and the giving of courses of instruction for squad leaders (*Delingsførere*) met with no success at this time.

The people's or folk high schools (*Folkehøjskoler*),* like the rifle clubs, date from before the Schleswig-Holstein war of 1864;† but their great popularity and rapid spread began with the period of reform which succeeded it. They are not public institutions, though nearly all now receive a certain amount of

*Sources: "Le Danemark. État actuel de sa civilisation et de son organisation sociale. Ouvrage publié à l'occasion de l'exposition universelle de Paris 1900 par J. Carlsen, H. Olrik, C.-N. Starcke" (Copenhagen, 1900), pp. 180-190; Harold W. Foght, "The Educational System of Rural Denmark" (U. S. Bureau of Education Bulletin 1913, No. 53. Washington, 1914); L. L. Friend, "The Folk High School of Denmark" (U. S. Bureau of Education Bulletin 1914, No. 5. Washington, 1914); and Kristen A. Lange's "Den Lingske Gymnastik i Danmark 1884-1909" (Copenhagen, 1909), pp. 14 and following.

†The father of the idea was Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig (1783-1872). The first people's high school was started in 1844 at Rødding, about twelve miles east and a little north of Ribe. Christian Flor (1792-1872) gave up his professorship in the university of Kiel to become its director. In 1864 it was moved across the border to Askov, north of the Konge Aa and midway between Ribe and Kolding. Others followed at Uldum (1848) and Oddensée (1851) in Jutland, Hindholm in Zealand (1852), and Dalum in Fünen (1851; founded by Kristen Kold). The first people's high school in *Sweden* was opened in 1868, at Hvilan in Skåne.

government aid, but are privately owned in most cases, or belong to a self-perpetuating corporation, and depend for their success upon the personality of the director and his associates. The total number opened in the years 1844-1911 was 143, and 80 of these were in existence at the close of the period. The great majority of the students are young countrymen 18 to 25 years of age, who after completing the required course at free rural elementary schools, where attendance is compulsory for children 7 to 14 years of age, have been engaged in practical agriculture and household duties, either at home or on some model farm. The attendance in the years 1864-1884 averaged about 3000 annually, but doubled in the following decade, and in the school year 1898-1899 reached a total of 3491 young men and 2646 young women. In 1906 the numbers at the different high schools ranged from 10 to 400; 53 per cent of the pupils were males, and it was estimated that a third of the young people among the rural population passed through these schools, although attendance is altogether voluntary. A few are co-educational, but the usual plan is to offer a winter course of five to six months (November-May) to young men, and a summer one of three months or more to young women. An hour a day is allotted to gymnastics as a rule.

The people's high schools and the rifle clubs have stood in close relation with each other, some of the former organizing clubs of their own, or supplying leaders for neighboring clubs,* and others, like the ones at Askov and Vallekilde, arranging for teachers' courses in gymnastics and rifle-shooting under professional instructors from the army. The aims of the two institutions are similar in many ways. Although the people's high schools all give instruction in handwork and household economics for women and many offer courses in agriculture, horticulture, masonry, carpentry, etc., their chief purpose is cultural—to mold character and ideals, inspire patriotism, train the students to think for themselves, reveal the dignity and

*Andreas Bentsen, of the Vallekilde high school, was president of Holbæk county rifle club for many years and in 1885 became a member of the *Overbestyrelse for de danske Skytteforeninger*; Poul la Cour, of Askov high school, was president of the Ribe county club, and also became a member of the *Overbestyrelse*; Dr. J. Nørregaard, of Testrup high school, was president of the Aarhus county club.

possibilities of country life, and lay the foundation for later work in local agricultural schools and schools of household economics. The lecture method prevails in the classroom. Courses in history and literature may be considered the backbone of the curriculum, with frequent discussion periods and much singing of folk and patriotic songs and hymns. Students room in the school dormitories, and are thus brought into close and sympathetic association with each other and with their teachers,—the foundation of that spirit of cooperation which is so characteristic of rural life in Denmark today.

The revival of general interest in physical education in Denmark had its origin thus among young adults, and not in the schools. At first it was the GutsMuths gymnastics as developed by Nachteggall which they practiced in the rifle clubs and the people's high schools, with the gradual addition of exercises borrowed from the Jahn *Turnen*; but beginning in 1884 the Ling or Swedish system was introduced, and made rapid headway until by the close of the century it had been generally adopted in the people's high schools, had outstripped its Danish-German rival in the rifle clubs, and formed the basis of a new official manual for the schools.* In the summer of 1880 41 members of the Stockholm Gymnastic Club (Stockholms Gymnastikförening) had visited London and Brussels, and on their return, at the invitation of the Copenhagen Gymnastic Club (Kjøbenhavns Gymnastikforening), stopped in the city. They were met at the station by Captain Amsinck, director of *Hærens Gymnastikskole*, who had made the acquaintance of some of them

*For the history of the Ling gymnastics in Denmark consult: Ramsing 1899 (as above, under rifle clubs); Knudsen 1914 (as above, under Nachteggall), pp. 12-30; Kristen A. Lange's "Den Lingske Gymnastik i Danmark 1884-1909" (Copenhagen, 1909); Kåre Teilmann's "Den Lingske Gymnastik i Danmark," in *Gymnastisk Selskabs Aarsskrift 1913-1914* (Copenhagen, 1914), pp. 94-142; "Haandbog i Gymnastik" (Copenhagen, 1899); Prof. K. Kroman, "Den nye danske Skolegymnastik," in "Beretning om det skandinaviske Gymnastiklærerselskabs femte almindelige Møde i København den 12.-14. August 1899" (Copenhagen, 1902), pp. 20-30 (see also pp. 31-40); "Die Leibespflege in Dänemark: Bericht über eine einjährige Studien-reise von Turnlehrer Otto Plaumann (Beilage zu dem Jahresbericht des Reform-Realgymnasium zu Kiel." Kiel, 1910. 48 pages); "Leibesübungen in Dänemark: Bericht über eine einjährige Studien-Reise von J. B. Masüger, Turnlehrer an der Kantonsschule in Chur" (Chur, 1912. 104 pages).

during his trip to Sweden in 1878, and on the twenty-third of August gave an exhibition of fencing and gymnastics, under the leadership of Lieutenant Viktor Balck, in the gymnasium of the *Officersskole* (Frederiksberg Palace, Roskildevej), followed by members of the Copenhagen club.* This first view of Swedish gymnastics attracted considerable attention at the time, but the effects, if any, seem to have been purely local.

Much more significant was the visit to Stockholm by two teachers at the Vallekilde† people's high school, Andreas Bentsen and Niels Hansen Rasmussen,‡ on the occasion of the fourth general Swedish *Turnfest*, held April 28 and 29, 1882.§ Clubs from Upsala and Lund universities, Malmö, Gothenburg, and Stockholm were represented, and there were also present two delegations from Norway (about 30 members of the Christiania *Turnforening* and a group of 19 university students) and one from Finland (the Helsingfors *Gymnastikklubb*). Both Bentsen and Rasmussen had been active in introducing gymnastics in Danish rifle clubs, and the former was president of the Holbæk county club, which paid his expenses for this journey. They were much impressed with the carriage and bodily development of the Swedish gymnasts, the beauty of their exercises, and the

*Consult "Minnen från Stockholms Gymnastikförenings Resa 4-25 Augusti 1880, hemförda och sammanfattade af Elis Erik" (Stockholm, 1880. 86 pages), pp. 65-69 and 80-82.

†Vallekilde is in northwestern Zealand, west and a little north of Holbæk.

‡*Bentsen* received his training as a teacher in Blaagaards Seminarium in Copenhagen, where Ernst Trier (1837-1893) was one of his teachers, and when the latter started the Vallekilde high school (1865) became one of his first assistants, teaching the pupils architectural drawing in connection with their industrial training and later becoming the head of an independent, but affiliated, trade school. *Rasmussen* was born September 27, 1854, at Vøiremosegaard, near Odense, took his entrance examination to the polytechnic school in Copenhagen in 1872 and finished the course (Cand. polyt.) in 1880, and had been Bentsen's assistant at Vallekilde since the latter year. As a student he had practiced gymnastics in the Copenhagen *Skytteforening*, and in the Copenhagen *Gymnastikforening*, which he helped to organize in 1877. Ten years later he opened his own *Gymnastikinstitut* in that city.

§Consult L. M. Törngren, "Gymnastikfesten i Stockholm våren 1882," in *Tidskrift i Gymnastik* I: 1037-1044. The precise date is given in Euler's "Encyklopädisches Handbuch des gesamten Turnwesens" I: 320.

light, clean gymnasium halls with their rich equipment of apparatus. Rasmussen, himself an ardent gymnast, determined to make himself acquainted with the Ling system and obtained permission to take part in the exercises at the Stockholm Centralinstitut for four months in the fall and early winter of 1883. He afterwards returned (1885-1887) to complete the full two-year course. In letters to friends he urged the need of a new gymnasium (Øvelseshus, Gymnastikhus) at Vallekilde. The idea met with favor, work was begun at once, and January 6, 1884, the building was first used, with Rasmussen as teacher of the new gymnastics. The formal opening occurred on February 25,* in the presence of 700 to 800 persons, among them the director of *Hærens Gymnastikskole* (Captain Amsinck), two members of the rifle clubs' *Overbestyrelse*, a group of university students from Copenhagen (K. A. Knudsen was one of them), and Poul la Cour, a teacher at the Askov people's high school. Fifty-six pupils gave a demonstration of a Swedish "day's order," under Rasmussen's direction, and there was also an exhibition of the GutsMuths-Nachtegall gymnastics by 28 participants in a three-weeks *Delingsførerkursus* which had just been held at the Vallekilde high school.

Director Trier was so favorably impressed by the Ling system that he wished to introduce it in the summer course for women also, and for this purpose, through a friend in Stockholm, he secured the services of a Swedish woman, Sally Högstöm, who was graduated from the *Centralinstitut* in 1883 and had since been assistant in medical gymnastics there. She had 182 pupils that first year at Vallekilde, and closed the season's work with an exhibition. During the same summer Bentzen built a gymnasium at Hvilan, in Skåne, for the oldest people's high school in Sweden. Its director, Dr. Holmström, had visited Vallekilde with some of his pupils and been moved by what he saw there to include gymnastics in his own curriculum. When the building was ready there was a formal opening at which Rasmussen led a group of Vallekilde students in an exhibition of their exercises—Danish young men under a Danish

*Consult Captain Carl Silow, "Gymnastiksalen och de gymnastiska öfningarna vid Vallekilde folkhögskola i Danmark," in *Tidskrift i Gymnastik* II: 383-389.

teacher demonstrating the Ling system at a Swedish school! In the audience was the instructor in gymnastics at Lund university, Captain Carl Norlander (1846-1916; graduated from the Stockholm *Centralinstitut* in 1870), who made the acquaintance of Bentsen and Rasmussen on this occasion, and received from them an invitation to come to Vallekilde with some of his students. There had already been a joint exhibition of gymnastics by university students from Copenhagen* and Lund at the latter city, on April 19, and a return meeting had been agreed upon. This gave Captain Norlander an opportunity to accept the invitation, and on the twenty-eighth of March in the following year (1885) he appeared at Vallekilde with 28 young men. They watched the exercises of the high school pupils under Rasmussen, and themselves gave an exhibition of gymnastics and fencing, after which Captain Norlander delivered an address on the aim and method of the Ling system. This was translated into Danish by Rasmussen, printed in *Højskolebladet*, and widely circulated in the form of an illustrated reprint.† Two days later came the second joint exhibition of students from the two universities, in Copenhagen, where Norlander again gave an address, replying to criticisms of Swedish gymnastics which had appeared in Danish papers.

Fröken Högström was back in Vallekilde again for the summer course of 1885, and this time, besides her regular teaching with 160 pupils, took charge of a little group of women who wished to fit themselves as leaders. One of them, Charlotte Bonnevie, was the first Danish woman to complete the course at the Stockholm *Centralinstitut*, in 1887, and that same year became teacher of gymnastics in Frøken Natalie Zahle's school in Copenhagen. Another, Director Trier's daughter Ingeborg, took over the direction of gymnastics for women at the Vallekilde high school in 1886, beginning May 3, the first Danish woman teacher of the Ling system, and continued in this position till her death in 1904. One of her successors was Signe, daughter of Andreas Bentsen.

*About twenty members of the *akademisk Skytteforening* under two non-commissioned officers. See "Svensk-Dansk Student-Gymnastik-uppvising i Lund den 19 April 1884," in *Tidskrift i Gymnastik* II: 159-164.

†"Kort Redegørelse for den svenske Gymnastik." Kolding, 1885. 48 pages.

In the winter of 1884-1885 a second people's high school introduced the Swedish system. Poul la Cour (1846-1908), teacher of mathematics and physics at Askov from 1878 till his death, and a notable and very popular speaker and writer, had been present at the formal opening of the Vallekilde gymnasium, and this led to the appointment of one of Rasmussen's best pupils as leader of the new exercises in the Askov school. La Cour, who saw the need of better trained teachers, next persuaded Captain Norlander to conduct a special two-months course of instruction in Lund, which was accordingly given September 5 to November 9, 1885, to a group of twelve Danish men.* La Cour himself was one of the number, and afterwards did much to make the Ling system widely and favorably known, especially in the people's high schools and rifle clubs. Another was a young university student from Copenhagen, Knud Anton Knudsen,† sent over by the *akademisk Skytteforening*. These two roomed in a house which Ling had himself occupied while he was fencing master in Lund (1804-1813). Of the rest, Hans Jørgen Rasmussen at once succeeded Niels Rasmussen at the Vallekilde high school (the latter left for Stockholm in the autumn of 1885 to take a complete course at the *Centralinstitut*), and held the position till his death in 1893; Jørgen Rasmussen (he afterwards added the name *Kirkebjerg*), from Lemvig in northwestern Jutland, after bringing the Ling gymnastics to rifle clubs in that vicinity in the winter of 1885-1886, entered upon a long career as teacher of gymnastics and sloyd at the Askov high school in 1886; from Askov came also another teacher, besides la Cour, and the son of Ludwig Schrøder, the director of the school; and three more were teachers in the people's high schools at Mellerup and Testrup, in Jutland, and Vejstrup in Fünen.

At la Cour's invitation Captain Norlander and 26 students from Lund paid a second visit to Denmark in the interest of the Ling gymnastics in March, 1886, and this time spent a day (the 8th) at Askov. There was an exhibition of exercises by pupils in the people's high school, by 41 men who were taking

*See "Svensk Gymnastik i Danmark," by la Cour and Norlander, in *Tidskrift i Gymnastik* II: 366-372.

†Born at Orte, island of Fünen, August 21, 1864, and graduated from the Latin school in Odense in 1883.

a leaders' course there, and by the visitors, who also demonstrated the Swedish system at Kolding the day before and at Odense on the 9th.* It was to Askov also that Sally Högström came in the summer of 1886, as teacher of gymnastics in the course for young women. July 22 she gave an exhibition of her work before about forty invited guests—physicians and interested men from the rifle clubs, and another in August while a meeting of teachers was in session at the high school. The director's daughter, Ingeborg Schrøder, was so impressed with Fröken Högström's instruction that she went to Stockholm for a course at the *Centralinstitut*, graduating in 1889, and she then became the regular teacher of gymnastics at the Askov high school.

The Swedish system, starting thus at Vallekilde and Askov and with the "Norlander twelve," now began to spread to other people's high schools, till nearly all of them had adopted it, and thence it reached the rifle clubs, partly through teachers at the high schools and by means of special leaders' courses which they organized for the purpose, partly through the efforts of former pupils who had become familiar with it there. At an exhibition arranged by the Svendborg county rifle club in 1887, 18 districts out of the 31 represented practiced the Ling gymnastics. The next year at a *Fest* in Ryslinge (Fünen) this was true of two thirds of the districts, and of three fourths at another *Fest* in the same place in 1891. According to reports received by the *Overbestyrelse* of the Danish rifle clubs there were in 1892, in the whole country, 3069 members taking part in the Danish-German gymnastics and 3142 following the Swedish system. In 1898 the corresponding figures were 4325 and 5167. Ten years later there were about 20,000 men, 8000 women, and 5000 boys practicing the Ling gymnastics. In 1899 the clubs which used the old Danish-German exercises, chiefly city clubs, organized the *Dansk Gymnastikforbund*, which in 1911 numbered about 5000 members, including women and children. Between 1889 and 1898, in courses arranged by the *Overbestyrelse*, 579 leaders were trained in the Ling gym-

*Captain Norlander was in Askov again November 19 of the following year. See his "En dag i Askov," in *Tidskrift i Gymnastik* II: 671-673, and Poul la Cour's address on that occasion, pp. 633-641.

nastics, and by 1908 the number had increased to 2178.* At first a single four-weeks course was offered, but in 1894 it began to be the practice to give each year two courses of four weeks each, one for beginners and one for advanced pupils, and to give certificates only in case both had been successfully completed.

It was not to be expected that the friends of the GutsMuths-Nachtegall gymnastics would watch the encroachments of the foreign system without a vigorous protest. The struggle began as early as 1885, with army officers almost without exception opposed to the innovation, and a few years later was at its height. The attention of school authorities was drawn to the subject by conflicting claims put forward in the press and by what the followers of Ling were already accomplishing in Denmark, and some of them recognized that with the help of the new exercises school gymnastics might perhaps be resuscitated, especially in the country, where conditions were quite unsatisfactory. In Copenhagen K. A. Knudsen, after his return from the two months in Lund in the autumn of 1885, became teacher of the Swedish system in H. Gregersen's school on Ørstedsvvej. Two years later N. H. Rasmussen came back from his course at the Stockholm *Centralinstitut* and opened a private gymnasium of his own.† Meanwhile other schools had followed the example of Gregersen's, e.g., Emil Slomann's Latin- og Realskole and a school for girls in Frederiksberg, in 1886. *Skoledirektør* Joakim Larsen, *Skoleinspektør* Jens Bergmann, and Otto Jensen, superintendent of *Opfostringshuset*, visited Lund to learn more of the Swedish system, and this led to discussions in the Peda-

*Lange 1909 (p. 72) gives the figures for 1889-1908 as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Askov people's high school, | 12 courses, | 721 participants. |
| Vallekilde " " " | 11 " " | 697 " |
| Ryslunge " " " | 6 " " | 301 " |
| Hadsten " " " | 6 " " | 373 " |
| Levring " " " | 1 course, | 30 " |
| Rasmussen's <i>Institut</i> | 3 courses, | 56 " |
| Total | 39 " " | 2178 " |

†He first used the new gymnasium built for Gregersen's school in the summer of 1887, moved in 1889 to the one at Emil Slomann's school on Jacob Danneferds Vej, in 1897 to the new hall at Blaagaard Seminarium, and in 1898 to his own *Gymnastikhus* at 51 Vodroffs Vej, opened October 8 of that year.

gological Society (*Pædagogisk Selskab*) early in 1887. At the invitation of this body Professor S. Ribbing of Lund university came over to present the claims of the Ling gymnastics, accompanied by Captain Norlander and four students, who gave a demonstration of the exercises and their effects.

The most important result of all this agitation was the appointment (April 5, 1887) of a commission of three by the ministry of church and school affairs (Ministeriet for Kirke- og Undervisningsvæsenet), to recommend improvements in gymnastics as taught in the schools and to present plans for the founding and organizing of an institution in which men and women should be trained as teachers of gymnastics. Its members were Lieutenant Colonel Amsinck, the new state inspector of gymnastics, chairman, communal physician (*Kommunelæge*) Axel Hertel, and Professor K. Kroman. They spent several weeks in Stockholm, at the *Centralinstitut* and in the schools, and then went to Berlin for a similar purpose. Upon their return they submitted a report (April, 1888) containing a number of definite suggestions for the better organization of physical education, the training of teachers, and the grouping of exercises in a lesson plan. They also proposed the appointment of a second and larger commission which should prepare a new manual of school gymnastics along the lines indicated. This body was accordingly named November 30, 1889. It included the former members, with the addition of *Kommunelæge* Chr. Fenger, regimental surgeon (*Korpslæge*) Johan Kier, Cand. polyt. N. H. Rasmussen, and the head of *Hærens Gymnastik-skole*, Captain L. V. Schleppegrell. The result of their labors was the "Handbook of Gymnastics" (*Haandbog i Gymnastik*) published in 1899* and at once authorized by the government for use in all schools under its control. The new manual follows the general principles of the Ling gymnastics and adopts practically all of the Swedish exercises, but uses also many of the forms already current in Denmark, and introduces exercises on the horizontal and parallel bars, flying rings, and trapeze along with others which require the apparatus commonly found in gymnasia in Sweden.

The commission of 1887 had proposed that the government should start an institution for the training of men and women

*Copenhagen, J. Frimodt. xvi+476 pages, 153 figures in the text.

as teachers of gymnastics (Gymnastisk Læreranstalt), with a two-years course of study and practice. But in view of the unsettled condition of the whole question the authorities were unwilling to take such action. Professor Hans Olrik, director of the State Teachers' Course (Statens etaarige Lærerkursus, later known as the Lærershøjskole), then suggested, in 1897, that instruction in gymnastics be included as a separate division in that course. The government gave its approval to the plan, the *Rigsdag* voted the necessary funds, 13,500 Kr., and on March 30, 1898, an official announcement of the organization and character of the new course (det etaarige Gymnastikkursus) was published. It was opened September 1 of that year in N. H. Rasmussen's *Gymnastikhus* on Vodroffs Vej, under the direction of Cand. theol. K. A. Knudsen.* The next year (1899) Amsinck retired from his position as state inspector of gymnastics. His successor, Lieutenant Colonel Ramsing,† already over sixty years old when he was appointed to the office, died August 18, 1904, and now, for the first time in the history of the inspectorship, it was given (September 2) to a

*He had completed his theological studies in Copenhagen in 1889, and the two-years course at the Stockholm *Centralinstitut* in 1891, taught in the Ryslinge (Fünen) people's high school 1891-1895 (and during this time was active in spreading the Ling gymnastics in the Svendborg and Odense county rifle clubs), and besides practicing medical gymnastics had been connected with Frøken Natalie Zahle's school and the Rasmussen gymnasium in Copenhagen 1895-1898.

†Peter Erhard Marius Ramsing was born December 23, 1837, in Ansager parsonage and grew up in the country. After attending a *Latinskole* he passed his matriculation examination (Studentereksamen) and studied theology until 1859, when he decided upon a military career. He received his first commission as an officer in 1861, took part in the war of 1864, and afterwards as first lieutenant was attached to the technical division of the General Staff, becoming teacher at the *Skydeskole* (shooting school) and later at the *Officersskole*. In 1879 he was appointed captain and head of the *Skydeskole* and 1887-1902 was chairman of *Skytteforeningernes Overbestyrelse*. He was raised to the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1894, and upon his retirement from military service in 1902 received the title of colonel. From April 1, 1902, till his death, August 18, 1904, he was president of the *Gymnastisk Selskab*, organized in Copenhagen August 22, 1899, by friends of the Ling gymnastics. He rendered invaluable service during the period of transition from the older gymnastics to the new.

non-military man, K. A. Knudsen, the director of the one-year teachers' course.*

The training school for civilian teachers of gymnastics (*det civile gymnastiske Lærerinstitut*) founded in 1808, and the normal school of gymnastics (*Normalskole for Gymnastikken*) opened twenty years later were both short-lived and both had been appendages of *det militære gymnastiske Institut*; since 1859 the teachers of gymnastics in the *Seminarier* had been non-commissioned officers in the army, assigned to this duty for three-year periods only; and though the non-military schools were given a state inspector of their own in 1870, this position had always been held by an army officer. But with *det etaarige Gymnastikkursus* of 1898-1899, the *Haandbog* of 1899, and the appointment of Knudsen to the state inspectorship in 1904 gymnastics in the Danish schools entered upon an independent career. This fact was made plain by a new school law (1899) which prescribed, among other things, that no one should be regularly employed as teacher in the public schools unless he had received professional training in a *Seminarium*.† The *nur-Turnlehrer* was thus to give place to the *auch-Turnlehrer*, an integral

*Inspector Knudsen has written the following, all of them published in Copenhagen, "i Hovedkommission hos J. Frimodt":

1. "Grundsætninger for Gymnastikundervisning." 1897. Fourth edition (112 pages) 1908.
2. "Øvelselære. Forklaring af typiske gymnastiske Øvelser." 1900. Fourth revised edition (160 pages) 1911.
3. "Timesedler til Brug ved Gymnastikundervisning for mandlige Elever." 1900. Fourth edition (50 pages) 1912.
4. "Timesedler til Brug ved Gymnastikundervisning for kvindelige Elever." 1900. Fifth edition (36 pages) 1912.
5. With Sigrid Nutzhorn, "Legemøvelser for Pigeskolen, ordnede efter Skoleaar." Udgivet med Understøttelse fra Ministeriet for Kirke- og Undervisningsvæsenet. 1913. 283 pages.
6. "Lærebog i Gymnastik for Seminarierne." 1916. 371 pages, illustrated with 204 figures in the text.

†There were in Denmark in 1917 four state *Seminarier* and twelve private ones. The state schools, all for men and all located in the country, are the Blaagaard Seminarium (founded in 1790 in Copenhagen, but in 1809 moved to Jonstrup, about twelve miles away from the capital) and those at Skaarup (Fünen), Jelling (south Jutland), and Ranum (north Jutland). Of the private schools, all but two of them in towns or cities, four are for men only, four for women, and four for both sexes. The regular course in a *Seminarium* covers three years.

part of the teaching staff, and payment for instruction in gymnastics was to be at the same rate as for any other subject in the curriculum. It was therefore chiefly *Seminariun*-trained teachers, both men and women, who attended the one-year course, and from 1901 onward examinations based on the *Haandbog* of 1899 were given to all candidates for graduation at the 16 *Seminarier*.*

In the higher (secondary) schools also gymnastics was to be taken out of the hands of special or professional teachers and entrusted to instructors who give a part of their time to other subjects. University graduates already occupying positions in such schools and university students who looked forward to teaching as a profession were therefore found among the pupils in the one-year course, and in 1905 the government decided to permit the work of that course to be spread over three or four years in the case of students who wished to complete it at the same time they were carrying on their studies in the university. During the years 1898-1911 (13 courses) a total of 169 men and 229 women were graduated from *det etaarige Gymnastikkursus*. Of this number 93 men and 39 women had already won their teachers' certificates, and 30 were university trained. April 1, 1911, the one-year course ceased to be a part of *Statens Lærerhøjskole*, and September 1, 1911, under a new name and as an independent institution (Statens Gymnastik Institut), it moved into a building of its own.† Two years before this (November 1, 1909) the authorities of the university at Copenhagen had added to the faculty of that institution, on a six-year appointment, a *Docent* in anatomy, physiology, and theory of gymnastics (Johannes Lindhard, a physician), under whose direction students

*For the later history of physical education in the Danish schools consult Knudsen in "Salmonsens store illustrerede Konversationsleksikon," vol. xix (Copenhagen, 1911), pp. 631-634; his "Gymnastikken i Danmark i hundrede Aar 1814-1914" (Copenhagen, 1914), and "Beretning om Statens Kursus i Gymnastik og om Gymnastikkens Tilstand i de danske Skoler i 1911" (Copenhagen, 1912); Docent J. Lindhard, "Akademiske Gymnastiklærere," in *Gymnastisk Selskabs Aarskrift 1912*, pp. 169-177; and Kristen A. Lange, "Den Lingske Gymnastik i Danmark 1884-1909" (Copenhagen, 1909).

†Temporary quarters, on rented land in a corner of the University Ball Club's grounds (Akademisk Boldklubs Bane), out Tagensvej near the corner of Jagtvej.

who desired to add instruction in gymnastics to other teaching after graduation were allowed to take one of their minor courses in preparation for the final examination (*Skoleembedseksamen*) leading to a degree, and so qualifying them to become candidates for positions in higher schools. The instruction in practical gymnastics and games was to be given at *Statens Gymnastik-Institut*, or under the oversight of its director, and was to be at least equal to that given in the one-year course.

The demand for teachers trained in the *Haandbog* of 1899 could not be met by graduates from these more extended and thorough courses of preparation, however. For men and women already employed in the schools who could not afford to leave their regular duties the state therefore arranged short vacation courses of four weeks each. Thirty-four attended the first one of these, given in Copenhagen in 1899. The next year it was decided to move them out into the country, to *Seminarier* and *Folkehøjskoler*, and the numbers rose at once to 200. Between 1900 and 1911 the work thus offered was completed by 1027 men and 1680 women—an average attendance of 225. In 1913 it reached 349.* Still briefer courses, of a single week's duration (*Instruktionskursus*), brought a measure of preparation to older teachers who were unable to leave their homes, and these were often attended by the same persons for several years in succession. Two thousand five hundred and twenty-six men and 519 women were enrolled in them in the years 1901-1911. The total number of teachers trained in the newer gymnastics, in the state one-year course, the university, the 16 *Seminarier*, and the longer and shorter vacation courses reaches therefore well into the thousands, and to these should be added the other thousands who have attended the month-long leaders' courses (*Delingsførerkursus*) arranged by the rifle clubs or their *Overbestyrelse* since 1889.

The Danes have not been the only ones to profit by the agencies just enumerated. Up to 1911 the one-year course had been taken by 15 foreigners (4 men and 11 women), from Norway, Finland, Poland, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Eng-

*In the years 1900-1908 such courses were given at the *Seminarier* in Jonstrup, Jellinge, Vordingborg, Silkeborg, and Haslev; at people's high schools in Frederiksborg, Ubberup, Sorø, Ryslinge, Vestbirk, and Askov; and at agricultural schools in Tune, Dalum, and Ladelund.

land, and America; and 49 foreigners (25 men and 24 women) had completed vacation courses. At the invitation of Yorkshire school authorities *Gymnastikinspektør* Knudsen conducted a special vacation course for English teachers at Scarborough in 1905, and two graduates of the one-year course, H. G. Junker and H. P. Langkilde,* were afterwards employed to train teachers in the schools of West Riding, Yorkshire. Langkilde was engaged by the British ministry of war in 1906 to introduce the Ling gymnastics in the army gymnasium at Aldershot.† Two other graduates of the one-year course, Braae-Hansen (in 1908, as director) and Frøken P. Brandt (in 1909), were installed as instructors in state-supported training schools for men and women teachers in gymnastics, organized at the South-western Polytechnic Institute in London. In 1908 Junker began to give one-month courses for English teachers at Silkeborg, in Denmark, which have been largely attended by both men and women (more than 80 in each of the years 1910 and 1911), and in 1910 he opened in the same place a one-year course for Englishmen. Danish women have also served as teachers of gymnastics at various English teachers' colleges and in the schools of that country.

The school code of 1814 had made practice in gymnastics obligatory, in the case of boys, at all elementary schools (*Folkeskoler*), whether town or country. A law of 1904 extended its provisions to include girls, as well; and within six years of that date more than 95 per cent of the girls in town and city elementary schools and nearly 50 per cent of those in the country were receiving such instruction. Lack of suitable rooms was the greatest difficulty which confronted the country schools. To meet this condition the *Rigsdag* voted that beginning with April 1, 1907, the state should bear one half of the expense (up to 15,000 Kr.) incurred by any community in building a gymnasium (*Gymnastikhus*) for its schools. Two years later the grant was increased, so as to include town schools, and made to cover

*Junker in the winter months of 1906-1907, 1907-1908, and 1909-1910, and Langkilde November-March, 1911-1912. Beginning October 1, 1912, the latter entered upon a three-year appointment as chief inspector and organizer of physical training in West Riding.

†See his "Gymnastikken i den engelske Hær," in *Gymnastisk Selskabs Aarskrift* 1908, pages 39-57.

the cost of providing playgrounds also. It became necessary to withhold state aid after April 1, 1911, on account of financial stringency, but up to that time nearly 300 gymnasia had been erected in the country regions, at an average cost of about 5000 Kr. By the following year (1912) 488 country schools had gymnasia of their own, and 559 others were using rented gymnasia, usually those which belonged to rifle clubs. The other two thirds of the 3500 or more country schools were obliged to content themselves with exercise out of doors on the playgrounds, which are gradually being equipped with such gymnastic apparatus as stall bars, Swedish horizontal bars, bucks, vaulting boxes, etc.

Not content with merely providing facilities for physical education, the *Rigsdag* also appropriated funds sufficient for the appointment of 17 *Gymnastikkonsulenter* (14 men and 3 women, most of them trained in the one-year course) or assistants to the state inspector of gymnastics, who are able to visit nearly 900 schools a year, arousing interest in teachers, pupils, and parents, demonstrating the proper handling of a class, meeting the teachers for conference and suggestions, and in general working for a better understanding of the object and means of physical education and greater uniformity in methods. A step which has done much to improve the standing of gymnastics in higher schools was the decision to grade pupils on their work in this subject, in connection with two of their public examinations (the *Mellemskoleeksamen*, since 1907, and *Realeksamen*, since 1908, but not yet in the final or *Studentereksamen*), and to give to such a grade (*Aarskarakter*) equal value with those secured in any other branch of study or practice.

Starting thus among young adults in the people's high schools and rifle clubs, the newer gymnastics has made its way into the elementary schools and the *Seminarier* and thence into the higher schools and the university. In contrast with what one sees in Sweden, the instruction is almost wholly in the hands of civilians, regular members of the teaching staff who give only a portion of their time to this branch; the average number of pupils in a class is only about 30, instead of the 150 or even 200 sometimes led by a single teacher across the Sound; and the rooms provided for exercise are smaller and more numerous—so frequently two for a single school that this may be con-

sidered the rule. On the other hand the Danish teacher receives at most a ten-months course of special training, in contrast with the two years usually spent at the Stockholm *Centralinstitut*.

It is now more than a hundred years since Denmark made gymnastics an essential part of the curriculum of its public schools, antedating Prussia in the step by over a quarter of a century; but her German neighbor, on the other hand, takes precedence in the matter of systematic efforts to foster games among school children. Minister von Gossler's playground order was issued in 1882, fourteen years before its Danish counterpart, and the German "Central Committee for the Promotion of Games," formed in Berlin in 1891, was six years old before a corresponding body was organized in Copenhagen. The beginnings of the movement, in each country, reveal the influence of English customs, and the ball games of the English schoolboy were among the first forms introduced. In certain of the higher schools of Denmark, particularly in boarding schools located in the country, open-air games were already firmly established when in 1891 the Copenhagen Playground Association (*Legepladsforening*) first undertook to bring them within the reach of children in public elementary schools (*Folkeskoler*), by opening playgrounds in various sections of the city and organizing the play-life there. This attempt suddenly took on national proportions when Wilhelm Bardenfleth,* Minister of Church and School Affairs, on August 31, 1896, sent out his "Circular to all school authorities regarding the introduction and regular use of games for children in the public schools."†

*Bardenfleth was born in Copenhagen July 18, 1850. He prepared for the university in *Borgerdydskolen* and completed his law course in 1874, became assistant (1879) and later head clerk (*Fuldmægtig*, 1889) in the ministry of the interior, and August 7, 1894, was appointed *Minister for Kirke- og Undervisningsvæsenet*. From May 23, 1897, till August 28, 1899, he served as Minister of the Interior (*Indenrigsminister*), and upon his retirement from this position was made *Amtmand* (principal civil officer) of Vejle county.

†"Circulære til samtlige Skoledirektioner om Indførelse af ordnede Lege for Folkeskolens Børn." The circular is given in full in the appendix to the first report (*Første Beretning*, 1897-1899) of *Udvalget for danske Skolebørns Fælleslege* (Copenhagen, 1899).

Games which require agility and strength, the Minister said, deserve a place side by side with formal gymnastics, not only as healthful forms of recreation, but because they train the players to make decisions promptly and carry them out energetically, rouse a feeling of responsibility, require subordination and cooperation, and play a large part in the development of personality. Hitherto this valuable educational agency, which supplements, but should not replace, gymnastics, has been left too much to the initiative of the young themselves and the results have been largely a matter of chance. School authorities should make it their business to provide playgrounds of sufficient size and conveniently located. Teachers must interest themselves in the matter, joining the pupils in their sports, preserving order, and supplying the necessary supervision and direction, and a place ought to be found in the curriculum for such activities, in addition to voluntary practice outside of school hours. The Minister announces his readiness to render assistance in furthering the movement, by including the subject of organized play in the annual vacation courses for teachers. Attention is called to a list of books containing directions for a variety of games. The Commission of 1889, appointed to work out a new manual of gymnastics, was also preparing a brief guide to the use of appropriate games,* and this, it was hoped, could be sent out to all public and private schools.

On December 1, 1896, three months after the appearance of the Bardenfleth circular, the Copenhagen Playground Association proposed to the ministry an annual grant from state funds to be used in making it effective, and offered to form a committee which should undertake to manage the practical details of the project. The suggestion was approved, the *Rigsdag* voted an appropriation of 5000 Kr. a year for three years, and the expenditure of the fund was entrusted to a group of men and women from all parts of the country who met in Copenhagen April 11, 1897, at the invitation of the Playground Association, and constituted themselves a National Committee for Promoting

*"Lege, Boldspil og anden Idræt. Kort Vejledning til Brug for Skoler udarbejdet af Gymnastikkommissionen." Copenhagen, 1897. 119 pages. The same material, somewhat modified, is contained on pp. 275-404 of the "Haandbog i Gymnastik" of 1899.

Group Games among School Children.* The original membership included Fru Rigmor Bendix, Copenhagen, chairman; school principal Emil Slomann, Frederiksberg, vice-chairman; wholesale merchant Carl H. Melchior, Copenhagen, treasurer; Dr. med. H. Forchhammer, Copenhagen, secretary; district physician Axel Hertel, Copenhagen, and school director Joakim Larsen, Frederiksberg, additional members of the executive committee; and fifteen other persons residing in various parts of Denmark, among them Professor Poul la Cour of the Askov people's high school, and Cand. theol. K. A. Knudsen, then living in Frederiksberg.

The regulations adopted at the time of organization have governed the operations of the Committee ever since. They define its object as the furtherance of group games in the open air. Among the means employed are lectures and the distribution of pamphlets explaining its work, guidance in the use of games, the training of teachers, grants of money to help in procuring apparatus and hiring teachers, and assistance in securing and equipping playgrounds. As a rule it is expected that in each case the community concerned, or private individuals, will provide an amount equal to that furnished by the Committee from the funds placed at its disposal. The Committee also reserves the right to supervise activities toward which it contributes, and to require annual reports regarding them; but local organizations are independent in matters of detail. The Committee is a self-perpetuating body, which chooses its own chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and two auditors (Revisorer) and appoints from its membership an executive committee, whose duties it prescribes. The financial year extends from April 1 till March 31. At least once a year, near the end of May, the entire Committee meets in Copenhagen to hear the report of the executive committee, receive the audited accounts, determine plans for the coming year, and attend to the election of officers.

The last report (1914) showed 16 of the original members of the National Committee still serving, and six new members

**Udvalget for danske Skolebørns Fælleslege.* The Committee, whose headquarters are in Copenhagen, at Holsteinsgade 11², has issued six reports, covering respectively the years 1897-1899, 1899-1902, 1902-1905, 1905-1908, 1908-1911, and 1911-1914.

in place of four removed by death and one whose resignation had been accepted. *Gymnastikinspektør* K. A. Knudsen was now a member of the executive committee. Lieutenant Colonel Harald Axel Hilarius-Kalkau, head of *Hærens Gymnastikskole* 1892-1902, became vice-chairman of the Committee in 1902 and later its chairman. Dr. Forchhammer felt obliged to give up his work as paid secretary in December of 1898, and was succeeded by *Gymnasielærer* Fr. Knudsen, who has filled the position ever since. The original state grant of 5000 Kr. a year was increased to 7500 Kr. in 1906 and to 12,000 Kr. in 1909. Three years later it was reduced to 4000 Kr., but raised to 6000 Kr. for 1913-1914 and 1914-1915. The Committee does not solicit contributions outside of this grant, although it has a small income from other sources. Effort has been largely centered, from the start, on two lines of work, the preparation of teachers to act as play leaders in the schools, and the furnishing of expert advice and direct assistance in particular cases where these are requested.

Minister Bardenfleth, in his circular of 1896, had offered to include instruction and practice in group games in the annual vacation courses for teachers conducted by the state. Special courses of this sort, under the direction of the secretary of the National Committee, were therefore provided for men in the summers of 1897-1900, and for women in 1898 and 1899, and the subject of games was added to the vacation course in gymnastics for women in 1897 and 1898. The Committee also gave financial aid to a portion of the teachers who had undertaken the work without government assistance. Since the fall of 1898 group games have been taken up as a regular part of the state's one-year course in gymnastics. In the spring of 1897 and again in 1898 the Committee offered short courses of its own for women teachers, especially those in the Copenhagen schools. With its help group games were made a part of various teachers' courses organized primarily for other purposes, e.g., the ones given by the Danish *Friskoleforening* (Free School Society) at Frederiksborg high school in 1897 and Vallekilde high school in 1898, Jørgen Rasmussen's course in sloyd at Askov in August of 1898, and the leaders' course (*Delingsførerkursus*) arranged by the Rifle Clubs at Vallekilde in October, 1898. Later the Committee organized spe-

cial three-weeks courses for men at Askov 1899-1901, Aarhus 1902, Odense 1903, and Copenhagen 1904 (total attendance 544); for women at Copenhagen 1900, 1901, and 1904, Odense 1901, and Vejle 1902 (total attendance 103); term-time courses for women in Copenhagen 1905-1907 (total attendance 42); and beginning and repetition vacation courses for men (1905-1907) and later for both sexes (1908-1913), in Copenhagen, Fredericia, and Aalborg.

The usual length of the special courses has been three weeks. Men have devoted four or five hours daily to the work, or a total of 80 to 90 hours, and most of it has been practical, with chief emphasis on the more complicated games, such as *Langbold* (a Danish-Norwegian ball game), cricket, football, and hockey. The aim has been to give a complete understanding of the theory of each game, and enough practice in it to make the teacher a capable guide for his pupils. Not much time has been allotted to the simpler games. In the early courses for women instruction was more elementary, and limited at first to a total of 18 to 24 hours, since most of the participants were quite unused to strenuous bodily exercise. *Langbold* was the favorite game, but later football was found to be excellent for young girls up to the age of puberty, and hockey after that period. The amount of time given to daily practice was also increased, until it reached 3 or 4 hours, and the total advanced from between 30 and 35 hours to between 50 and 60. Hockey steadily gained in popularity, but children's games received relatively more attention than was the case in courses for men. Fr. Knudsen, secretary of the National Committee, has published a handbook of games, a guide to hockey, and with Ahrent Otterstrøm a football manual.*

The demands upon the National Committee in its other field of effort, the giving of expert advice and direct assistance in particular cases, have been numerous and constant from the

*1. "Dansk Legebog. Af Fr. Knudsen, Sekretær i Udvalget for danske Skolebørns Fælleslege." Copenhagen, 1915.

2. "Hockey. Udgivet af Udvalget for danske Skolebørns Fælleslege ved Fr. Knudsen, Udvalgets Sekretær." Copenhagen, 1903; second edition, 1907.

3. "Lærebog i Fodboldspillet, af Fr. Knudsen og Ahrent Otterstrøm." Copenhagen, 1909.

start. In 1897 help was given to 43 schools or communities; 64 others were added to the list the following year, and 120 in the period 1890-1901, and since that time the additions have averaged about 25 a year, so that by the end of 1913 a total of 532 had received aid. The needs of public elementary schools (Folkeskoler) have naturally been the first to receive attention, but a few *Realskoler* and *Højskoler* in the provinces are included in the number. Experience demonstrated the importance of competent oversight, and since April 1, 1901, assistance has been granted in new cases only when a professionally trained teacher of gymnastics is employed, or a graduate of one of the state or Committee courses in group games. Tours of inspection are made by the secretary of the National Committee, who visited 387 schools or communities in the years 1900-1913. Other trips were made to give advice or help in the laying out of playgrounds. Commonly the Committee first suggests the games which seem most appropriate in the locality concerned, and then sends on the necessary apparatus (for *ball* games, exclusively), except such as can be bought on the spot without much expense. A sum of money to be used in procuring or improving playgrounds is sometimes added; but the original idea of providing compensation for teachers has not been carried out.





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